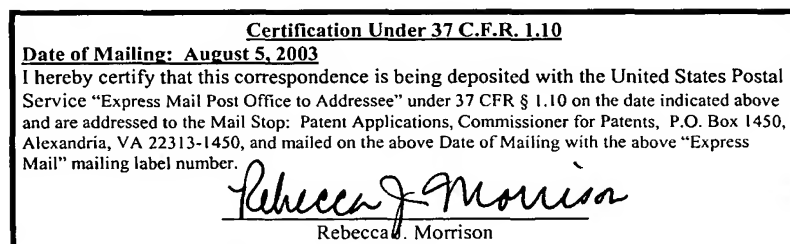


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas E. Drake, Jr., et al.
Serial No. Unknown
Filing Date: Herewith
Group Art Unit: 2877
Examiner: Natividad, Philip Sana
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC LASER TESTING

Mail Stop: Patent Applications
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this continuation application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, paragraph 1, please delete the first paragraph under RELATED APPLICATIONS and add the following paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATIONS:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 09/343,920 filed June 30, 1999 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC LASER TESTING", which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/091,240 filed on 30 June 1998, and incorporates by reference the prior of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/091,229 filed on 30 June 1998 entitled, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION by Thomas E. Drake.